

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spring clip connector assembly comprising:

a ~~base-product~~ faceplate with an opening, and

a spring clip connector including a housing having a front wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall, and a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position ~~between the housing and the tab~~

wherein one of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

wherein the tab is movable between ~~[[a]]~~ the closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab toward the closed position.

Application Serial No. 10/606,165
Amdt date December 14, 2004
In Response to Office Action Dated June 14, 2004

2. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the ~~base product is a~~ faceplate has two screw holes.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the ~~base product has~~ mounting surface includes a top mounting surface and a bottom mounting surface on the faceplate.

5. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the resilient member ~~the latch~~ is a cantilever latch on the housing.

6-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the contact partially blocks the opening in the front wall.

11. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the housing has a single opening.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the front wall has two openings.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the housing includes the resilient member and the base-product faceplate includes at least one the mounting surface.

16. (Original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the tab partially blocks the opening in the front wall.

17. (Currently Amended) A spring clip connector assembly comprising:

a ~~base-product~~ faceplate having at least two openings,
a first spring clip connector located in a first of the at least two openings in the ~~base-product~~ faceplate, the spring clip connector comprising

a housing having a front wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall, and a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position ~~between the housing and the tab~~

wherein one of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

wherein the tab is movable between ~~[[a]]~~ the closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab toward the closed position and

a second spring clip connector located in a second of the at least two openings in the ~~base-product~~ faceplate comprising

a housing having a front wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall, and a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position ~~between the housing and the tab~~

wherein one of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the ~~base-product~~ faceplate and the housing includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

wherein the tab is movable between ~~[[a]]~~ the closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in

the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab towards the closed position.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a spring clip connector to a faceplate having at least one opening, a bottom mounting structure and a top mounting surface, the spring clip connector comprising

a housing having first and second side walls that are parallel and spaced apart and a front wall between the first and second side walls, the front wall having a single opening for receiving a wire therethrough,

a bottom wall and a top wall that are spaced apart

a cantilever latch attached to the top wall including at least one ramp piece having a vertical bearing surface that secures the connector to a faceplate,

at least one ramp piece attached to the bottom wall having a vertical bearing surface that secures the connector to the faceplate,

a conductor secured to the housing and having a leading edge adjacent to the opening in the front wall,

a tab movably coupled to the housing having a closed position wherein a ledge of the tab is adjacent to the leading edge of the conductor and having an open position wherein the ledge is farther away from the leading edge of the conductor than in the closed position, and

a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position ~~between the housing and the tab that biases the tab toward the closed position~~, the method comprising:

angling the connector into the opening of the faceplate so that the at least one ramp piece attached to the bottom wall slides over the bottom mounting structure,

rotating the connector so that that top mounting surface deflects the cantilever latch, allowing the at least one ramp piece attached to the cantilever latch to slide under the top mounting surface and engage the vertical bearing surface to form a snap lock connection.

19. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab is a part of the housing.

20. (New) The connector assembly of claim 19, wherein the part of the housing is a surface of a retaining wall of the housing that faces the front wall of the housing.

21. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the tab is insertable into the housing through a front opening of the housing adjacent the front wall of the housing.

22. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a resilient finger tab to engage and secure the conductor to the housing.

23. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein one of the resilient member and the mounting surface is located on a back side of the faceplate and wherein the spring clip connector is insertable through the opening of the base product from the back side.

24. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the conductor includes an upwardly extending rear wall and a bottom wall extending forward from a bottom edge of the rear wall.

25. (New) The connector assembly of claim 24, wherein the housing includes a resilient finger tab to engage the upwardly extending rear wall and secure the conductor to the housing.

26. (New) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the spring is a coil spring.

27. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising inserting the front wall of the spring clip connector through the opening of the faceplate.